

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

REVISED FY 2000 and FY 2001 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS

USDA published its first crop report in 1863, and further strengthened this responsibility in 1905 by creating the Crop Reporting Board (now the Agricultural Statistics Board). Today, the major responsibility for collecting and publishing current statistics on the Nation's food and agriculture industry is carried out by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). NASS is an agency within the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) Mission Area of USDA. These responsibilities were authorized under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627). Beginning in fiscal year 1997, NASS became responsible for conducting the census of agriculture program, previously with the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The census of agriculture provides comprehensive information about the Nation's agriculture every 5 years. NASS's responsibility to conduct the census of agriculture is authorized under Public Law 105-113, the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 (Title 7 U.S.C. 2204g).

The mission of NASS is to serve the basic agricultural and rural data needs of the people of the United States, those working in agriculture, and those living in rural communities by objectively providing important, usable, and accurate statistical information and services needed to make informed decisions. NASS's statistics keep those involved with America's biggest industry well-informed, provide the basic information necessary to keep agricultural markets stable and efficient, and help maintain a "level playing field" for all users of agricultural statistics. NASS's program of current official estimates and the census of agriculture program is complemented by its statistical research and service program. This component works to improve statistical survey methods and to test advanced technology for timely and cost efficient production of high quality agricultural statistics. NASS also performs important reimbursable survey work for other Federal, State, and private organizations as well as providing technical assistance for agricultural statistics programs in other countries.

This fiscal year 2000 and 2001 Annual Performance Plan is a blueprint of the program objectives and fiscal year 2000 and 2001 performance goals for NASS. The objectives previously included in the Management Initiatives were eliminated but have been integrated with the means and strategies. The performance plan is closely linked to the NASS and REE Strategic Plans, and is framed by the six REE general outcomes outlined in those strategic plans. The NASS goals are the same as those in the REE mission area and are shown in the performance tables that follow. The general REE outcomes are:

- An agricultural system that is highly competitive in the global economy.
- A safe and secure food and fiber system.
- A healthy, well-nourished population worldwide.
- Greater harmony between agriculture and the environment.
- Enhanced economic opportunity and quality of life for Americans.
- Enhanced partner alliances and information systems.

Outcome-oriented NASS objectives supporting each REE Goal are listed in the tables that follow. The NASS program supports each REE Goal, however Goal 3 is supported by NASS's reimbursable work, but not with appropriated federal funding. The linkage of the NASS objectives to the USDA strategic plan are outlined in the NASS Linkage of Goals to the Departmental Goals included in the NASS Strategic Plan 1997-2002. References to these linkages are included in the Discussion of Annual Performance Goals sections of this Annual Performance Plan.

The assessment of NASS performance is attained from a number of sources, including explanations from data users and customers as to the value and relevance of NASS products and services. For example, NASS statistics contribute to the orderly functioning of commodity markets. Timeliness is easily measured by the percent of preannounced due dates met, but the degree to which NASS contributes to the outcome of an efficient commodity market can only be based on the judgement of the data user. NASS has historically obtain these judgements through periodic Data User Meetings with NASS customers and data users. In addition to the Data User Meetings, NASS intends to conduct customer service surveys to

measure its performance and further enhance its services and desired outcomes specified in this plan will be needed from subject matter experts, such as public and private economists, the media, farmers, ranchers, and other data users. NASS's unique field office structure enables the agency to have "grass roots" connections and contacts with local data users and data providers in the States. Through these contacts, coupled with the industry meetings, conference, and participation in agricultural exhibitions, the Agency keeps up-to-date with the ever-changing and increasing needs for statistical information regarding agriculture and related issues.

The statistical research and service program supports NASS's entire annual agricultural statistics program and census of agriculture activities. Therefore, the performance of NASS research is reflected in the same performance goals and indicators used to evaluate the outcomes of the statistical program for agricultural estimates and the census. All appropriated funds, including research, are associated with the goals, objectives, and performance measures for the GPRA program activities in this annual plan.

Goal 1: Through research and education, empower the agricultural system with knowledge that will improve competitiveness in domestic production, processing and marketing.

Objective 1.1: Describe U.S. agriculture as fully as possible, providing timely and accurate agricultural statistics that are used throughout the agricultural sector to evaluate supplies and determine competitive prices for world marketing of U.S. commodities.

Objective 1.2: Promote a level playing field in production agriculture with impartial statistics available to all at a predetermined and publicized date and time.

Baseline: FY 1999 data are the baseline.

Program Activities: Agricultural Estimates/Statistical Research and Service

	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimate	FY 2001 Estimate
Funding (in thousands of dollars)	\$66,651	\$64,956	\$63,986	\$64,486
FTE's	669	731	729	733

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Target	FY 2001 Target
Provide timely and impartial agricultural statistics for use by all market participants which promote an economically viable and competitive agricultural production system.				
Percent of NASS reports that are complete, meet scheduled release dates, and contain no data errors.	98%	96%	99%	99%
Percent of total national agricultural production included in the NASS annual statistics program.	94%	1/	95%	95%

Percent of data users who rate NASS data as important or essential to the orderly marketing of agricultural products.	n/a	n/a	90%	92%
The NASS annual report release calendar is published and distributed prior to the start of each year.	yes	yes	yes	yes

^{1/} Actual percent calculation is not available until July 2000.

Discussion of Annual Performance Goals: The achievement of these performance goals supports USDA Goal 1.2: Open, expand, and maintain global market opportunities for agricultural producers. Producers and other data users need objective, reliable, and timely data with which to make informed production and marketing decisions. Production agriculture measured as fully and as accurately as possible permits each commodity sector to determine supplies and competitive prices for world marketing of U.S. agricultural products. Official statistics promote a level playing field in production agriculture with impartial information available to all at a predetermined and publicized date and time.

Means and Strategies: These performance measures are supported by current budgetary and human resources, except for the customer service surveys in FY1999. The Census of Aquaculture, conducted in FY 1999, allowed NASS to collect data which will provide, for the first time, national and State level detailed data about aquaculture production. Coverage of this specialized segment of agriculture, along with increased coverage of the equine industry, contributes to the increase shown for the percent of the U.S. total national agricultural production included in the NASS program. For FY 2001, NASS is requesting funding for a total of \$.5 million for a monthly hog survey which supports Goal 1. The monthly hog survey would provide more timely information on hog supplies which would facilitate more orderly marketing of hogs. NASS strategies for achievement of the performance goals include: conduct censuses and surveys to provide important data regarding supplies and prices of agricultural commodities; systematically review each step of the data collection, processing, and estimation of production and price statistics to improve quality and timeliness; use the Agricultural Statistics Board to assure objective evaluation of survey indications and to provide unbiased official USDA estimates; examine the relevancy of statistical products by profiling the content, scope, frequency, and coverage provided compared to user needs; produce official estimates on the dates and times specified in data formats most useful to data users; and publicize NASS release policy and the annual release calendar to emphasize fair treatment to all.

Verification and Validation: The Marketing and Information Services Office closely monitors and tracks the percent of NASS reports that are complete, meet scheduled release dates, and contain no errors. Commodity coverage completeness is determined by measuring NASS's national production statistics annual coverage of all agricultural receipts in the National Income Accounts, however input for these calculations are not available until July of the following year. Surveys of data users will determine customer satisfaction ratings of the importance, usefulness, timeliness, and relevancy of NASS statistics and data products. Monitoring and validation are performed by the NASS budget staff working with other appropriate Agency units.

Goal 2: Ensure an adequate food and fiber supply and promote food safety through improved detection, surveillance, prevention, and education.

Objective 2.1: Provide meaningful statistical projections that enable the producers and the marketing channels to minimize economic risk and provide food security for consumers.

Objective 2.2: Provide important data on pre- and post- harvest chemical applications for informed evaluations of risk potential associated with using or discontinuing chemicals relative to both food safety and food security.

Baseline: FY 1998 and 1999 data are the baselines.

Program Activities: Agricultural Estimates/Statistical Research and Service

	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimate	FY 2001 Estimate
Funding (in thousands of dollars)	\$4,815	\$4,058	\$7,981	\$8,781
FTE's	49	46	73	77

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Target	FY 2001 Target
Provide important data on pre- and post-harvest chemical applications for informed evaluations of risk potential associated with using or discontinuing chemicals relative to both food safety and food security.				
Provide survey data showing percentage of U.S. farmland employing Integrated Pest Management practices.	yes	yes	yes	yes
Number of fruit and vegetable growers and packing houses surveyed regarding agricultural practices related to food safety issues.	n/a	n/a	10,000	10,000

Discussion of Annual Performance Goals: The accomplishment of these performance goals supports USDA Goal 2.2: Reduce the incidence of food borne illness and ensure that commercial food supplies are safe and wholesome. Essential chemical use and associated economic data are provided for analyzing policy and program consequences for producers and consumers. Comprehensive analyses of post-harvest chemical use is made possible by measures of chemicals applied during storage, packing, and shipping of agricultural products. NASS will measure progress toward the national goal of promoting preharvest food safety practices by using Integrated Pest Management practices on 75 percent of U.S. farmland by the year 2000. Under the proposed Department of Health and Human Services/USDA joint initiative to Ensure the Safety of Imported and Domestic Fruits and Vegetables, NASS would be responsible for the collection of food safety information for fruits and vegetables.

Means and Strategies: NASS has requested a FY 2001 budget increase of \$.8 million to expand the current NASS environmental statistics program. This initiative would allow NASS to increase the coverage of commodities in the chemical use data collection program in order to address existing data gaps and further serve the needs of the Food Quality Protection Act. Strategies for achievement of the performance goals include conducting ongoing surveys to provide needed data on types and amounts of chemicals applied by producers and make meaningful data readily available to all who need the chemical

use information for business and policy decisions. NASS conducted the Fruit and Vegetable Agricultural Practices pilot study in 1999 in California and New York to prepare for a 14-State comprehensive survey effort in early 2000. This survey is designed to establish a baseline of agricultural practices related to the potential for microbial contamination of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Verification and Validation: Official estimates, based on statistically valid surveys, will provide an unbiased estimate of U.S. farmland under Integrated Pest Management practices.

Goal 3: Foster a healthy and well-nourished population having the knowledge, desire, and means to make health-promoting choices.

Objective 3.1: Provide statistical advice, consultation, and services to USDA and State agencies concerned with health, nutrition, and education when seeking new data or the statistical analysis of existing data for policy decisions.

The NASS program supports this goal through its reimbursable program; there are no appropriated resources used for this goal.

Goal 4: Enhance the quality of the environment through a better understanding of and building on agriculture's and forestry's complex links with soil, water, air, and biotic resources.

Objective 4.1: Provide statistical data on agricultural chemical use, production practices, land productivity and Integrated Pest Management practices so proper decisions can be made regarding stewardship of America's rural resources and the environment.

Baseline: FY 1998 data are the baseline.

Program Activities: All.

	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimate	FY 2001 Estimate
Funding (in thousands of dollars)	\$847	\$1,457	\$800	\$800
FTE's	9	17	6	6
PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Target	FY 2001 Target
Provide statistical data on agricultural chemical use, production practices, land use, and Integrated Pest Management practices so proper decisions can be made regarding stewardship of America's rural resources and the environment.				
Number of commodities for which pesticide use data are collected.	38	43	50	65

Discussion of Annual Performance Goals: The achievement of this performance goal supports USDA Goal 3: Promote sensible management of our natural resources. Statistically sound information relevant to policy and production decisions associated with land use, chemical use and Integrated Pest Management practices on U.S. farms and ranches are critical for the effective stewardship of America's rural resources, the environment and the health and well-being of farm workers.

Means and Strategies: Strategies for achievement of this performance goal and resources required include conducting ongoing surveys to provide and expand needed information concerning quantities of chemicals applied to agricultural commodities; supplying important information on land use and productivity for use in environmental monitoring efforts; supplying important economic information relevant to policy and production decisions associated with chemical use and IPM practices on farms and ranches; and supplying information relevant to measuring the adoption of IPM practices in agriculture.

Verification and Validation: Pesticide use data verifying coverage of the commodities, along with IPM information, will be summarized and published in the following reports: Agricultural Chemical Usage-Field Crops Summary; Agricultural Chemical Use-Vegetables; Agricultural Chemical Usage-Postharvest Applications; Agricultural Chemical Usage-Livestock and General Farm Summary; Agricultural Chemical Usage-1998 Restricted Use Pesticides Summary; and Pest Management Practices. The commodities are identified in these reports and the number of commodities published are used as a performance measure for attaining the established targets for FY 2000 and FY 2001 in expanding survey coverage of statistical data on chemical use, production practices, land use and IPM practices.

Goal 5: Empower people and communities, through research-based information and education, to address the economic and social problems facing our youth, families, and communities.

Objective 5.1: Provide detailed data from the census of agriculture at specified intervals to facilitate locality based policy and business decisions benefitting farmers, ranchers, and rural residents.

Objective 5.2: Provide necessary and sufficient economic data on prices, labor, cost of production, farm numbers, and farm income to enable informed policy decisions to benefit farmers, ranchers, and rural residents.

Baseline: Baseline is fiscal year 1999 when the 1997 Census of Agriculture results were released to the public.

Program Activities: All.

	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimate	FY 2001 Estimate
Funding (in thousands of dollars)	\$46,008	\$33,493	\$26,388	\$24,898
FTE's	462	248	220	208

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Target	FY 2001 Target
Provide detailed data from the census of agriculture at specified intervals to facilitate locality based policy and business decisions benefitting farmers, ranchers, and rural residents. Provide necessary and sufficient economic data on prices, labor, cost of production, farm numbers, and farm income to enable informed policy decisions to benefit farmers, ranchers, and rural residents.				

Number of months earlier than previous agricultural censuses for release of U.S. census data.	<u>1/</u>	10	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>
Percent completeness improvement for coverage of minority operated farms compared to the previous agricultural census.	<u>1/</u>	18%	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>
Documented evidence that AELOS data are requested and used to make informed decisions by a wide cross-section of data users for analyzing changes in farm financial health, land ownership patterns and inputs contributed to agricultural production by landlords.	n/a	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>

1/ The Census of Agriculture is conducted every 5 years. Data for the 1997 Census of Agriculture were collected in 1998, and released on February 1, 1999.

2/ Requests for this information will be documented through contacts with industry groups, commodity groups, farm worker organizations, environmental associations, universities, corporations, and other data users. Contact will be documented from official correspondence, meetings, conferences, exhibitions, and speeches by both Headquarters and field office staff. NASS could track the value and usefulness of this information through customer surveys and calls received to the toll-free customer service hot line once the AELOS results are available to the public early in the 2001 calendar year.

Discussion of Annual Performance Goals: The achievement of this performance goal supports USDA Goal 1: Expand economic and trade opportunities for agricultural producers and other rural residents. Greater economic opportunity and quality of life is made possible for those most in need through policy and program decisions based on sound statistical data from agricultural censuses and surveys. Annual surveys will monitor the economic status of those who operate and work on the nation's farms and ranches and will provide needed data for policy analysis. The Bureau of Economic Analysis receives important data for measuring economic activity at the county level. Every 10 years, AELOS provides the only comprehensive source of data on agricultural land ownership, financing, and inputs by farm operators and landlords for each State. NASS will continue to improved coverage of minority farm operators when conducting the census of agriculture to provide needed demographic data and document the contributions to agricultural production from these farm and ranch operators.

Means and Strategies: The cyclical downward trend in the reduction of resources in FY 1999, FY 2000, and FY 2001 occurs after completing the census of agriculture. This is typical to the 5-year census cycle and is normally associated with the winding down of the previous census activities and the start-up of the planning phase for the next census of agriculture. In FY 1999, post-census activities included conducting special studies on the Census of Aquaculture, the Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey, and the Census of Horticulture Specialties, in addition to distribution of Census of Agriculture publications and products. On-going planning and re-engineering efforts are now underway in FY 2000 and will continue into FY 2001 and beyond. These activities will provide a solid foundation in preparing for the data collection, processing, analysis, summarization and publication of the 2002 Census of Agriculture. The data collection and processing cycle of the census of agriculture beginning in FY 2003 requires considerably more resources than the current ongoing activities associated with the planning and re-engineering phase. The completion of the Agricultural Economics and Land Ownership Survey (AELOS) also contributed to the overall reduction of resources for this goal. Strategies for achievement of these performance measures include: conducting the census of agriculture in order to provide detailed local data on the characteristics of America's agricultural sector; improving coverage of minority farm operators in the census of agriculture; and reporting the results of the census in a timely and user-friendly manner to enable decision making concerning localities across the U.S.

Verification and Validation: The Advisory Committee on Agricultural Statistics whose members represent and are affiliated with industry groups, commodity groups, organizations, universities, corporations and other data users will provide valuable input during the planning cycle for the 2002 Census of Agriculture. The

committee will be meeting periodically over the next several years to review and discuss content and other relevant issues for planning and conducting the next census of agriculture. There will not be any performance targets established during the planning and re-engineering cycle. Coverage of minority farm operators will be used as a performance measure when conducting the census of agriculture for evaluating the completeness of the demographic data and documenting the contributions to agricultural production from these farm and ranch operators. This performance measure will not be used between censuses.

Goal 6: Enhance partner institutions and information systems to facilitate achievement of the REE Goals.

Objective 6.1: Facilitate partnerships with State Departments of Agriculture, Land Grant Colleges and Universities, and other cooperators to enhance the statistical information available on U.S. agriculture, respond to local data needs, and reduce respondent burden on the Nation's farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses.

Objective 6.2: Ensure up-to-date, reliable, and efficient technological systems to effectively manage information to meet both internal and external needs.

Baseline: FY 2001 data will be the baseline.

Program Activities: All.

	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimate	FY 2001 Estimate
Funding (in thousands of dollars)	–	–	\$250	\$1,650
FTE's	–	–	1	3
PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Target	FY 2001 Target
Promote partnerships with State Departments of Agriculture, Land Grant Colleges and Universities, and other cooperators and ensure up-to-date, reliable, and efficient information management systems.				
Number of cooperative agreements and memorandums of understanding between NASS and outside partners.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of security technologies and security system architectures adopted and deployed.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Discussion of Annual Performance Goals: The achievement of this performance goal supports USDA Goal 4: Provide effective customer service and efficient program delivery. NASS performs services and statistical consultation other Federal and State and private commodity organizations. Statistics not covered by the national agricultural statistics program can be generated to meet special data needs on a reimbursable basis through partnerships and cooperative agreements. This promotes and contributes to improvements in the overall quality and consistency of statistical information for the needs of other organizations as well.

Means and Strategies: NASS Headquarters and field offices will work closely with local State Departments of Agriculture, Land Grant Colleges and Universities, and industry groups to conduct reimbursable surveys covering such varied issues on farm safety, pesticide use, county estimates, nursery/horticulture, farm finance, and specialty vegetable crops. Resources necessary to accomplish the initiative for development of NASS

Computer Security Architecture will be covered through program funding. In FY 2001, NASS is requesting \$1.4 million for improved computer security. This security architecture would provide necessary hardware and software for protection of Agency systems and information with improved technical monitoring capabilities and more efficient administration of systems.

Verification and Validation: The number of cooperative agreements and memorandums of understanding (MOU's) between NASS and outside partners will be used as an indicator in measuring the agency's performance for attaining this goal. Records for agreements and MOU's are maintained by the office of the Deputy Administrator for Field Operations. The Information Technology Division will provide and maintain detailed information on the adoption and deployment of security technologies and security system architectures.

NASS MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Management Initiative 1: Strive to meet customer needs and expectations.

Program Activities: All.

Funding: Resources for Management Initiative 1 are reflected throughout the 5 REE Goals.

FTE's: Resources for Management Initiative 1 are reflected throughout the 5 REE Goals.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Target	FY 2001 Target
Improve customer awareness, responsiveness, service, and communications within NASS to enhance the data products and services delivered to satisfy changing customer data needs and expectations.				
Percentage of data users who are satisfied or very satisfied with NASS service.	n/a	n/a	90%	92%
Number of new data products and services introduced to fulfill customer requests. <u>1/</u>	4	9	5	7

1/ NASS's Marketing and Information Services Office tracks this through the customer service toll-free telephone number and coordination of requests received Agency-wide.

Discussion of Annual Performance Goals: The accomplishment of this performance goal supports USDA's Management Initiative to provide effective customer service and efficient program delivery. Serving customer needs, responding to special requests, and striving to develop better, faster, and more efficient ways of serving NASS customers and stakeholders is at the core of the NASS Strategic Plan.

Means and Strategies: Resources necessary to accomplish this initiative will be covered through program funding. NASS will meet the requirements of the September 1993 Executive Order 12862, Setting Customer Service Standards. NASS will continue to introduce new products and services, redesign existing products, and enhance NASS publications and electronic products, including generating new spatial products, to be responsive to changing customer data needs and expectations. NASS's new Marketing and Information Services Office will play a major role in the customer service area. NASS will improve customer awareness concerning NASS products, services, and facilitate easy access to official NASS data by expanding the use of the Internet. NASS will investigate new ways to continue dialogue between NASS and data users.

Verification and Validation: Periodic customer satisfaction surveys will be used to track customer satisfaction and fulfillment of data user information and special needs requests. NASS's Marketing and Information Services Office will track fulfillment of data user requests.

Management Initiative 2: Employ a diversified and technically competent staff and treat employees fairly and with respect.

Program Activities: All.

Funding: Resources for Management Initiative 2 are reflected throughout the 5 REE Goals.

FTE's: Resources for Management Initiative 2 are reflected throughout the 5 REE Goals.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Target	FY 2001 Target
Hire, train, and develop a highly qualified, diversified, and technically competent staff in an atmosphere of trust, teamwork, and in a healthy, comfortable, modern, and safe environment.				
All program needs are met and NASS meets Department guidelines regarding diversity in staff.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Percentage of NASS employees reporting low or very low morale.	22%	24%	20%	18%
Number of substantiated EEO complaints filed by NASS employees.	0	0	0	0

Discussion of Annual Performance Goals: The accomplishment of this performance goal supports USDA's initiative to ensure that all customers and employees are treated fairly and equitably, with dignity and respect. Providing a favorable work environment promotes employee satisfaction and increases productivity, trust, respect, communication, and teamwork. Having well-trained managers contributes to a strong organizational leadership team, encourages employee involvement in program decisions, and promotes efficient management of personnel resources.

Means and Strategies: Resources necessary to accomplish this initiative will be covered through program funding. All employees receive the mandatory annual civil rights training. NASS will continue to support cooperative programs with 1890 land-grant, Hispanic, American Indian, and other minority educational institutions to assist them in training and to help NASS recruit qualified minorities. NASS will promote trust, recognition, and communication in a team atmosphere and involve the staff at all levels in program decisions. It will utilize and promote student assistants, cooperative students, stay-in-school and other employment programs that assist in recruitment of highly qualified, diversified, and technically competent staff. Maintain a healthy and safe environment for employees, with modern equipment and comfortable furnishings. Make effective use of flexible work schedules and work locations. Develop innovative and flexible training programs to meet individual needs. Offer and encourage statistics, computer, and communication skills training. Promote staff knowledge in the full range of agricultural and rural issues. Build experiences and versatility through staff mobility. Conduct an organizational climate survey at regular intervals and take actions on issues identified. Participate in national and international forums where concepts and methodologies are presented. Utilize cooperative agreements, exchange programs, contracts, and other interactive vehicles with academic, professional, and subject matter experts to expand staff capabilities.

Verification and Validation: Periodic organizational climate surveys and records maintained by the NASS Civil Rights Director and Administrative Services Office staff will be used to track information for performance goals. Also, the NASS Administrator holds periodic listening sessions with small groups of employees to keep in touch with current employee concerns and suggestions for improvements.

Management Initiative 3: Ensure an effective information resource management system that maximizes productive capability and facilitates communication for employees.

Program Activities: All.

Funding: Resources for Management Initiative 3 are reflected throughout the 5 REE Goals.

FTE's: Resources for Management Initiative 3 are reflected throughout the 5 REE Goals.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Target	FY 2001 Target
Effectively manage an information resources management system that uses the latest technology to maximize productive capability and facilitate communication for efficient delivery of NASS services to the public				
Number of report due dates missed due to equipment failure.	1	0	0	0
Percentage of employees strongly agreeing or agreeing that the physical work environment is not an impediment to doing their job well	80%	80%	85%	90%

Discussion of Annual Performance Goals: The achievement of this performance goal supports USDA's efforts to improve information technology management in the Department. Providing an up-to-date information management system allows NASS to efficiently manage data and other information in order to meet customer requests as well as internal needs, maximize productivity and efficiency, and foster communications.

Means and Strategies: Resources necessary to accomplish this initiative will be covered through program funding. Strategies for achievement of this goal include moving to client/server computing using relational database technology. NASS wants to increase use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and geo-referencing devices. Use the USDA wide-area communications network to implement new functions such as remote LAN management, video-conferencing, document archiving and retrieval systems, and GIS. NASS will organize all relevant data into a series of data warehouses which can be accessed and shared through powerful analysis tools. When appropriate, these data sets should contribute key components to the USDA architecture. Work closely with the Administrative and Financial Management unit of the Agricultural Research Service to ensure administrative and financial services to NASS are delivered in an efficient, effective, and consistent manner consistent with Departmental standards and guidance.

Verification and Validation: Periodic organizational climate surveys will be used to track employees' ratings of their physical work environment. Records maintained by the NASS Marketing and Information Services Office are used to determine the number of reports missed due to equipment failure. No material weaknesses in NASS have been identified from audits or investigations conducted by the General Accounting Office or by USDA's Office of the Inspector General.

SUMMARY OF NASS RESOURCES FOR FY 2000
(Dollars in Thousands)

Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area Goals

<u>NASS Program Activities</u>	<u>Goal 1</u>	<u>Goal 2</u>	<u>Goal 3</u>	<u>Goal 4</u>	<u>Goal 5</u>	<u>Goal 6</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Agricultural Estimates	\$60,868 FTE's 699	\$7,718 FTE's 71	\$ -- FTE's--	\$800 FTE's 6	\$9,423 FTE's 106	\$250 FTE'S 1	\$79,059 FTE's 883
Statistical Research & Service	\$3,118 FTE's 30	\$263 FTE's 2	\$ -- FTE's--	\$-- FTE's--	\$475 FTE's 4	\$ -- FTE'S --	\$3,856 FTE's 36
Census of Agriculture	\$ -- FTE's --	\$ -- FTE's --	\$ -- FTE's--	\$ -- FTE's--	\$16,490 FTE's 110	\$ -- FTE'S --	\$16,490 FTE's 110
TOTAL	\$63,986 FTE's 729	\$7,981 FTE's 73	\$ -- FTE's--	\$800 FTE's 6	\$26,388 FTE's 220	\$250 FTE'S 1	\$99,405 FTE's 1,029

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- Goal #1: Through research and education, empower the agricultural system with knowledge that will improve domestic production, processing, and marketing to successfully compete in the global market.
- Goal #2: Ensure an adequate food and fiber supply and promote food safety through improved detection, surveillance, prevention, and education.
- Goal #3: Foster a healthy and well-nourished population having the knowledge, desire, and means to make health-promoting choices.
- Goal #4: Enhance the quality of the environment through a better understanding of and building on agriculture's and forestry's complex links with soil, water, air, and biotic resources.
- Goal #5: Empower people and communities, through research-based information and education, to address the economic and social problems facing our youth, families, and communities.
- Goal #6: Enhance partner institutions and information systems to facilitate achievement of the REE Goals.

SUMMARY OF NASS RESOURCES FOR FY 2001
(Dollars in Thousands)

Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area Goals

<u>NASS Program Activities</u>	<u>Goal 1</u>	<u>Goal 2</u>	<u>Goal 3</u>	<u>Goal 4</u>	<u>Goal 5</u>	<u>Goal 6</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Agricultural Estimates	\$61,368 FTE's 703	\$8,518 FTE's 75	\$ -- FTE's--	\$800 FTE's 6	\$9,423 FTE's 106	\$1,650 FTE's 3	\$81,759 FTE's 893
Statistical Research & Service	\$3,118 FTE's 30	\$263 FTE's 2	\$ -- FTE's--	\$-- FTE's--	\$475 FTE's 4	\$-- FTE's --	\$3,856 FTE's 36
Census of Agriculture	\$ -- FTE's --	\$ -- FTE's--	\$ -- FTE's--	\$ -- FTE's --	\$15,000 FTE's 98	\$ -- FTE's --	\$15,000 FTE's 98
TOTAL	\$64,486 FTE's 733	\$8,781 FTE's 77	\$ -- FTE's--	\$800 FTE's 6	\$24,898 FTE's 208	\$1,650 FTE's 3	\$100,615 FTE's 1,027

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- Goal #1:** Through research and education, empower the agricultural system with knowledge that will improve domestic production, processing, and marketing to successfully compete in the global market.
- Goal #2:** Ensure an adequate food and fiber supply and promote food safety through improved detection, surveillance, prevention, and education.
- Goal #3:** Foster a healthy and well-nourished population having the knowledge, desire, and means to make health-promoting choices.
- Goal #4:** Enhance the quality of the environment through a better understanding of and building on agriculture's and forestry's complex links with soil, water, air, and biotic resources.
- Goal #5:** Empower people and communities, through research-based information and education, to address the economic and social problems facing our youth, families, and communities.
- Goal #6:** Enhance partner institutions and information systems to facilitate achievement of the REE Goals.